

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127792
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FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 1289 ACTION SECSTATE DATED MAY 17, 1978.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HAVANA 1289

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI, EAIR, CU, US

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT INCIDENT

REF: HAVANA 1278

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE OPERATIVE PORTIONS OF
CUBAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS NOTE NO 848 DATED MAY 12, 1978.

2. QUOTE ON JANUARY 17, 1978, AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT ENTERED THE
AREA UNDER THE AIR TRANSIT CONTROL OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND FLEW
WITHIN THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONE (ZONA DE
IDENTIFICACION DE LA DEFENSA ANTIAEREA - Z.I.D.A.) IN AN AREA ADJACENT

TO THE SOUTH, TO AIR NAVIGATION ROUTE A-16, THUS ENDANGERING THE
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FLIGHTS OF AIRCRAFT OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THIS INTERNATIONAL AIR
NAVIGATION ROUTE.

3. LAW NO 1318 OF NOVEMBER 27, 1976 GOVERNS THE ORGANIZATION, PLANNING

AND CONTROL OVER THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA'S TERRITORY AND FLIGHT INFORMAT

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ION REGION. ARTICLE 5 STATES THAT THE MINISTRY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES (MINFAR) HAS THE MAXIMUM RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SECURITY AND DEFENSE OF THE AIR SPACE OF THE REPUBLIC, AND ALL QUESTIONS RELATING TO FLIGHT PLANS AND AUTHORIZATION TO FLY OVER THE AIR SPACE AND AREA UNDER AIR TRANSIT CONTROL OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED BY PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES. LIKEWISE, SINCE ARTICLE NO 3 ESTABLISHED THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONE, IT WAS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY THE MENTIONED AIRCRAFT SINCE IT WAS IN UNAUTHORIZED TRANSIT WITHIN THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONE.

4. IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE PRECEPTS, AN IDENTIFICATION WAS MADE, ESTABLISHING THAT IT WAS AN AIRCRAFT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED

STATES OF AMERICA, TYPE P-3 ORION, WHICH IS USED FOR ANTI-SUBMARINE AND SURFACE SEARCH. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS IN CHARGE OF PERFORMING THE IDENTIFICATION DEPARTED.

5. THAT SAME DAY, JANUARY 17, 1978, AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT ALSO PENETRATED THE AREA UNDER THE AIR TRANSIT CONTROL OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AND, AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE PREVIOUS AIRCRAFT, FLEW WITHIN THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONE, IN A REGION ALSO ADJACENT, TO THE SOUTH, OF AIR NAVIGATION ROUTE A-16.

6. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PROCEDURES, AND COMPLYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE PRECEPTS GOVERNING THEM, WHEN THE IDENTIFICATION WAS MADE, AT 1052 HOURS THE SAME DAY, AND HAVING ESTABLISHED THAT IT WAS THE SAME AIRCRAFT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TYPE P-3 ORION WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AT 0753 HOURS THAT SAME DAY, THE AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS IN CHARGE OF PERFORMING THE IDENTIFICATION DEPARTED.

7. THE COMPETENT CUBAN AUTHORITIES TAKE STEPS SO THAT THE PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING UNKNOWN AIRCRAFT THAT PENETRATE THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONE ARE CONDUCTED UNDER CONDITIONS OF EXTREME SECURITY, IN ORDER TO AVOID ACCIDENTS WHICH MAY ENDANGER INTERNATIONAL

AIR NAVIGATION. LIKEWISE, THERE IS NO INTENTION TO MOLEST UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT WHEN THEY PERFORM FLIGHTS WITHIN INTERNATIONAL ZONES.

8. LACK OF PRIOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ENTRY OF AIRCRAFT IN THIS AREA OBLIGES CUBAN AUTHORITIES TO UNDERTAKE THE IMMEDIATE IDENTIFICATION OF SAID AIRCRAFT.

9. THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA REITERATES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TAKING ALL MEASURES NECESSARY IN ORDER

TO CONTRIBUTE, IN EVERY SENSE, TO THE MAXIMUM FLIGHT SECURITY IN
THE AREA UNDER THE AIR TRANSIT CONTROL OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AND
SEEKS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE FULLEST COOPERAT-
ION IN THIS SENSE. A BRIEF PRIOR REPORT CONCERNING THE FLIGHT PLAN
OF A MILITARY AIRCRAFT FLIGHT IN THE REGION UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF CUBAN AUTHORITIES COULD AVOID TROUBLE ("MOLESTIAS") LIKE THIS, AND
ENSURE THAT SAID AIRCRAFT WILL NOT CONSTITUTE ANY UNNECESSARY RISK
FOR THE FLIGHT OF OTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA. UNQUOTE.

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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